

## Assisi

Of all the towns offered  
in the Italian countryside  
the weight carried  
by the star  
of Umbria  
casts the longest shadow.

All the way to Rome,  
as it once did  
the life, the stories, the words  
leave every road weary pilgrim  
with some shard  
of a message infused within

If not through encounter  
then via the road of commerce  
endured by all  
without exception -  
the Tau, the Assisi Cross, the overpriced meals  
available for cash or plastic.

As Jesus calls  
it is not the self-satisfied  
with map and check book  
that ultimately perceive  
the voice in the wind  
in the chapel, in the street

It is as usual  
the humble, the contrite, the blessed  
that are not way laid  
not because they  
have become  
but because they are  
attentive, listening, silent.

The donkey, the sparrow, the wolf  
and the butterfly speak to me also  
of the vastness of the Kingdom  
the glory of its coming  
and I move step by step  
as my path unknown  
unfolds before me.